

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 L-03

DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /151 W

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R 281750Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9741

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS 9413

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC, BE

SUBJ: BELGIAN VIEWS ON EC AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

REF: EC BRUSSELS 0425; BRUSSELS 0435

1. SUMMARY: MINAG CHIEF OF CABINET DE BRUYCKER, DISCUSSING  
RECENT EC COUNCIL (AGRICULTURE) MEETING AND OTHER EC POLICY  
MATTERS WITH AGATTACHE, REPORTS MINISTERS INCREASINGLY EXASPER-  
ATED WITH FRENCH POSITIONS AND ACTIONS. MINISTERS HAVE WIDELY  
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VARYING POSITIONS ON 1974-75 PRICE PROPOSALS AND LITTLE

PROGRESS WAS MADE. SOYBEAN CAP, AND MIP'S FOR CANNED FRUIT AND VEGETABLES WERE DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. DEBRUYCKER REPORTED ON LAST WEEK'S MEETING EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (AGRICULTURE) AND AFTER REVIEWING THE DECISIONS REACHED (SEE USEC REFTEL) MADE SEVERAL PERSONAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE GROW- IN IMPATIENCE AND FRUSTRATION OF OTHER EC MINISTERS WITH RECENT FRENCH ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS. FRENCH DECISION TO FLOAT THE FRANC, COMING JUST BEFORE THE MEETING OPENED, FURTHER POISONED ALREADY BAD ATMOSPHERE OF RECENT COUNCIL MEETINGS. FRENCH AGMINISTER CHIRAC HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY ARROGANT AND UNCOMPROMISING, ACCORDING TO DEBRUYCKER, WITH THE RISE OF HIS DOMESTIC POLITICAL STAR. CURRENT CHAIRMAN ERTL HARDLY CONCEALS HIS DISLIKE FOR AND DISTRUST OF CHIRAC, WHICH IS WIDELY SHARED. THIS SITUATION IS MAKING THE COUNCIL'S TASK IN FINDING COMMON GROUND ON CAP POLICY DECISIONS ALMOST INSUPERABLY DIFFICULT.

3. ALTHOUGH LITTLE PROGRESS WAS MADE ON NARROWING THE WIDE RANGE OF POSITIONS ON THE COMMISSION'S 1974-75 CAP PRICE PROPOSALS, DEBRUYCKER AGREED WITH REFTEL REPORT THAT INITIAL STATEMENTS OF MINISTERS (WHICH INVARIABLY LEAK OR ARE LEAKED TO THE PRESS) ARE LARGELY FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSUMPTION. BELGIUM, HOWEVER, WILL PRESS FOR SOME INCREASE IN THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS, PARTICULARLY IN THE DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK AREA. HE FEELS THE MARCH 1 DEADLINE FOR A PRICE DECISION CAN BE MET THIS YEAR, GIVEN THE CURRENT WORLD PRICE SITUATION.

4. ALTHOUGH THE U.S. POSITION ON THE SOYBEIAN CAP AND THE MIP'S FOR CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN DETAIL PREVIOUSLY WITH DEBRUYCKER, THEY WERE REITERATED WITH A SUMMARY OF OUR MAJOR ARGUMENTS. DEBRUYCKER PERSONALLY FEELS THAT BOTH PROPOSED MEASURES HAVE LITTLE ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION, BUT THEY HAVE CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL APPEAL TO EC FARMERS. HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE CAN EXPECT LITTLE HELP FROM THE BELGIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IN OPPOSING THEM. THE MIP'S ITEM, THOUGH ON THE COUNCIL'S AGENDA, WAS NEVER ACTUALLY OFFICIALLY DISCUSSED AT THIS LAST MEETING. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

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## Message Attributes

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